

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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TAGS:PINR SEDU MX US

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS BY GOM OFFICIALS OF CIA INVOLVEMENT
IN UNAM DEMONSTRATIONS

REFERENCE: MEXICO 2333, MEXICO 2336, MEXICO 2337

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER INVITED AMBASSADOR
DE OLLOQUI TO THE DEPARTMENT THIS AFTERNOON (MARCH 17) TO
DISCUSS ALLEGATIONS MADE BY GOM OFFICIALS CONCERNING CIA
INVOLVEMENT IN EVENTS CENTERING ABOUT PRESIDENT
ECHEVERRIA'S VISIT TO UNAM.

2. DURING MEETING AMBASSADOR BOWDLER MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) WE WERE SORRY TO HEAR OF THE LAMENTABLE
INCIDENT WHICH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA ENCOUNTERED WHEN HE
VISITED UNAM LAST FRIDAY.

(B) AT THE SAME TIME WE WERE SURPRISED AND CONCERNED
THAT HE SHOULD HAVE REFERRED TO THE CIA AS MANIPULATING
THE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING AGAINST HIM.

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(C) OUR CONCERN HAS DEEPENED WITH PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY SUCH HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS AS FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA AND ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA PUBLICLY REITERATING THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE CIA.

(D) THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO BASIS FOR THE CHARGE THAT THE CIA WAS IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN THE UNAM INCIDENT. WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT UNFOUNDED CHARGES OF THIS NATURE MADE BY HIGH GOM OFFICIALS WILL GIVE CREDENCE TO THOSE ACCUSATIONS IN THE VIEW OF THE MEXICAN PEOPLE AND ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ATTITUDE OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND TRUST WHICH CHARACTERIZES MEXICAN-U.S. RELATIONS.

3. AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUI EXPRESSED HIS OWN CONCERN OVER THE ALLEGATIONS AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS. ROBINSON

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